As winter approaches, a bird and her chick flee south, a mouse and her child build a nest, and a rabbit pair races ahead of a wolf and his cub. They are all seeking home, and in this beautiful, poetic book the true nature of home becomes clear: it's wherever parent and child are together.

KATIE COTTON studied English at Oxford University before becoming an author and editor of children's books. She finds home in London.

SARAH JACOBY is an award-winning artist and illustrator. Her art has been shown internationally, and she is the recipient of a Society of Illustrators Gold Medal. She finds home in Brooklyn, New York.

FOLLOW SARAH JACOBY ONLINE
www.thesarahjacoby.com
@jacobee on Twitter
@sjacobee on Instagram
FOLLOW KATIE COTTON ONLINE
@katiacotton on Twitter

www.abramsyoungreaders.com
@abramskids
U.S. $15.95 Can. $19.95
ISBN 978-1-4197-2374-2
51595
9 781419 723742

Abrams Books for Young Readers
An imprint of ABRAMS
COVER ILLUSTRATIONS BY SARAH JACOBY
PRINTED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

COTTON · JACOBY
THE ROAD HOME

THE ROAD HOME

By Katie Cotton

Illustrated by Sarah Jacoby

For my mum
- K.C.

For Timothy. Wherever you are I am home.
- S.J.

The illustrations in this book were made with watercolors and digital media.
Cataloging-in-Publication Data has been applied
for and may be obtained from the Library of Congress.
ISBN: 978-1-4197-2374-2

The Road Home copyright © 2017 Frances Lincoln Children's Books
Illustrations copyright 2017 © Sarah Jacoby
Book design by Chad W. Beckerman and Andrew Watson

Published in 2017 by Abrams Books for Young Readers, an imprint of ABRAMS.
All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, mechanical, electronic, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission from the publisher.

Printed and bound in China
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Abrams Books for Young Readers are available at special discounts when purchased in quantity for premiums and promotions as well as fundraising or educational use. Special editions can also be created to specification. For details, contact specialsales@abramsbooks.com or the address below.

ABRAMS The Art of Books
115 West 18th Street, New York, NY 10011
abramsbooks.com

THE ROAD HOME

Written by
Katie Cotton

Illustrated by
Sarah Jacoby

ABRAMS BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS
NEW YORK

Fly ***with me*** *to far away,*
where sun still warms the ground.
For winter's in the dying light
and in that windswept sound.

Our wings are sore.
There's far to go
before our flight is flown.

This road is hard, this road is long,
this road that leads us home.

Build with me with sticks of straw
and leaves from nearby lands.

Curl them high above our heads –
forget your aching hands.

For safety is a precious place,
a place to call our own.
This road is hard, this road is long,
this road that leads us home.

Hunt with me through light and shade
and hear the woodland cry.
We've claws to grip and jaws to bite,
and prey is close nearby.

For hunger is a burning thing
that settles like a stone.

This road is hard, this road is long,
this road that leads us home.

Come with me through tangled trees
and thorns that grasp our coats.

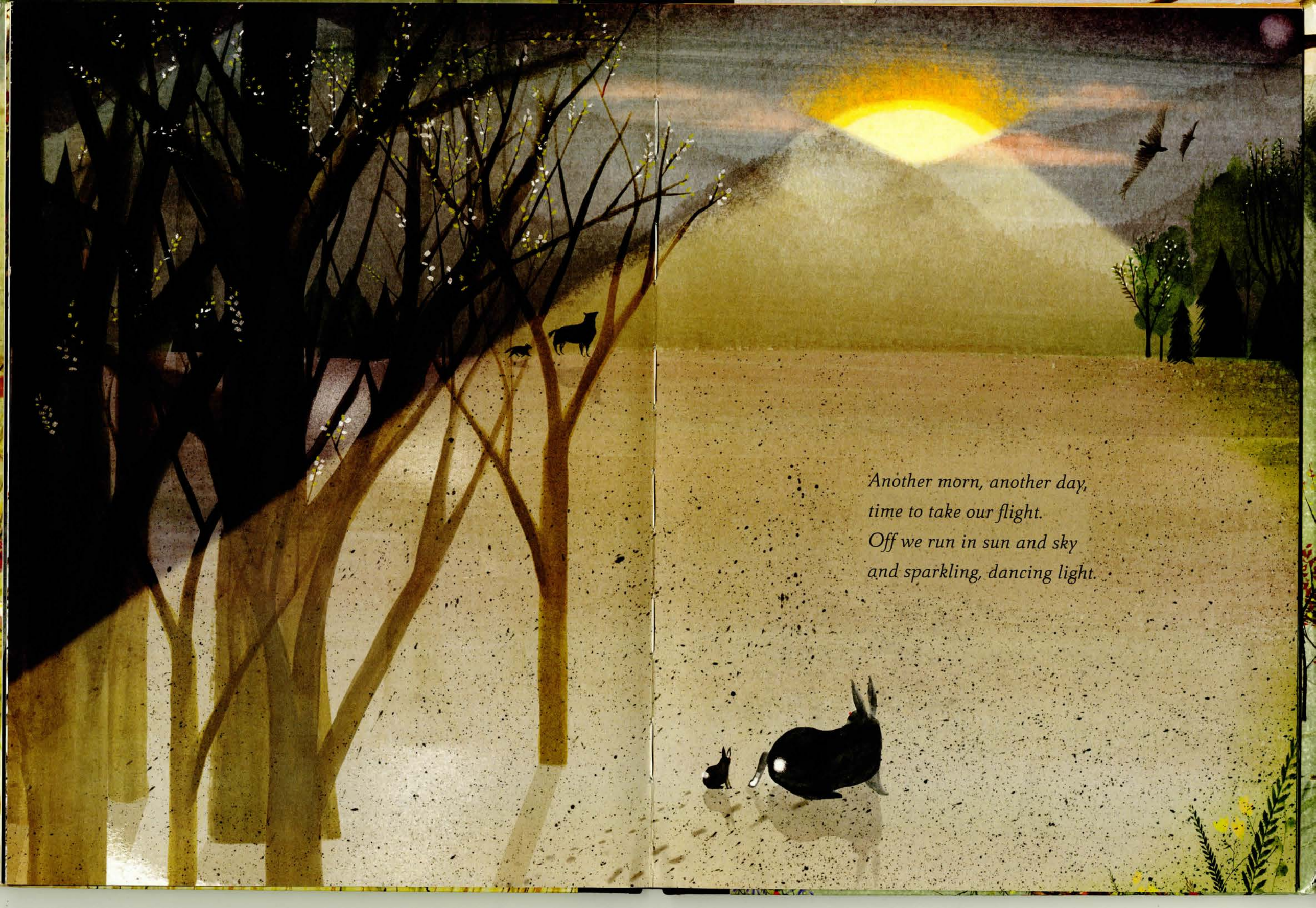
The air is cold and sharp as ice.
It chills our trembling throats.

For Wolf is near.
His name is Fear.
He wants us for his own.

This road is hard, this road is long,
this road that leads us . . .

. . . home.

Now, at last, we're safe and sound,
tucked in cozy deep.
Let's curl up close, lost in leaves,
lost in velvet sleep.



Another morn, another day,
time to take our flight.
Off we run in sun and sky
and sparkling, dancing light.

This road is hard, this road is long,
but we are not alone.
For you are here, and I'm with you . . .

. . . and so this road is home.